

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: O. GLOBERMAN et al.  
Serial Number: Not yet assigned  
Filed: 27 January 2000 as PCT/IL00/00058 and Herewith as US National Stage  
For: Expandable Intervertebral Spacer  
Art Unit: ° Not yet assigned

Honorable Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks  
Washington DC 20231

## PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

Further to the concurrent filing of a U.S. national stage application of PCT Application No. PCT/IL00/00058, kindly amend the application as follows:

## IN THE SPECIFICATION

Kindly replace the "Related Applications" section on page 1, immediately after the title, with the following section:

~~IN THE SPECIFICATION~~  
~~--RELATED APPLICATIONS~~

This application is a U.S. national filing of PCT Application No. PCT/IL00/00058, filed January 27, 2000. This application is also related to two PCT applications, PCT/IL00/00055 and PCT/IL00/00056, both designating the US and both filed on January 27, 2000, the disclosures of which are incorporated herein by reference. This application is also related to PCT Application No. PCT/IB98/00523, the disclosure of which is incorporated herein by reference.--

## IN THE CLAIMS

Kindly replace the present claims 4-14, 17, 19, 22, 23, 27, 30, 33-53, 55-58, 60-70, 73-75, 78-87, 89-112, 116, and 119-124 with the following claims in clean form:

4. (Amended) A spacer according to claim 1, wherein said slits are straight.
5. (Amended) A spacer according to claim 1, wherein said slits are curved.
6. (Amended) A spacer according to claim 1, wherein said slits are defined by a cut in said tube.
7. (Amended) A spacer according to claim 1, wherein said slits are defined by a section removed from said tube.